

SESSION A (6/25/07 - 8/3/07)

Philosophy 3 | Critical Thinking | PHELPS 3523 (MTWR 11:00am-12:05pm)+Discussion

Instructor: Barnes | Teaching Assistant(s):

Practical Reasoning, argumentation, and the analysis of language as instruments of sound thinking in everyday life.

Philosophy 20A | History of Philosophy | ARTS 1426 (MTWR 9:30-10:35am)+Discussion

Instructor: Hagland | Teaching Assistant(s):

History of Philosophy from Thales to Aristotle

Required Text(s)

Plato (translated by G.M.A. Grube), Five Dialogues

Hussey, The Presocratics

Philosophy 100B | Theory of Knowledge | ARTS 1426 (TWR 2:00-3:20pm)+Discussion

Instructor: Altschul | Teaching Assistant(s):

Whereas most intellectuals besides philosophers (eg. astronomers, economists, cultural anthropologists, etc.) seek to discover empirical facts with the goal of ultimately acquiring knowledge about the world, we, as epistemologists - will attempt to uncover the very nature of knowledge itself. This course is divided into three main units. For the first unit, we will explore the following question: Do I in fact know anything about the world at all (such as that Schwarzenegger is governor of California or that I am wearing shoes today)? In the second unit of the course, we will try to determine what it means to know something. That is, what are the necessary and sufficient conditions for having knowledge? The final unit will raise issues about justification. How much - and also what kind of - reasons or evidence is required for one to have knowledge?

Required Text(s)

Feldman, Epistemology

Reader

Philosophy 112 | Philosophy of Religion | ARTS 1426 (TWR 12:30-1:55pm)

Instructor: Forgie | Teaching Assistant(s):

An introductory survey of a number of philosophical issues connected with the concepts and beliefs making up the great monotheistic religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. A large portion of the course deals with the concept of God and belief in the existence of God. We will examine what have been historically the most important arguments for the existence of God—the cosmological argument, the argument from design, and the ontological argument—as well as consider the evidential value for religious belief provided by the alleged occurrence of miracles, by the variety of religious or mystical experiences and by the alleged objectivity of morality. Then we will consider grounds and arguments against the existence of God, beginning with alleged incoherencies in the very concept of God and ending with an extensive consideration of what many consider the biggest obstacle to religious belief—the problem of evil and suffering. Finally, we will stand back from our deliberations and ask: in the light of all the arguments pro and con, is belief in God rational? At each stage we will come to grips with some of the best our ancestors have contributed to these issues—works by Plato, Aquinas, Anselm, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Pascal, Freud, James and Russell—as well as important writings of contemporary philosophers. Requirements are: final exam, plus two short papers.

Required Text(s)

Pojman, Philosophy of Religion

Office | TWR (after class each day) and by appointment in SH 5718

SESSION B (8/6/07 - 9/14/07)

Philosophy 1 | Introduction to Philosophy | PSYCH 1802 (12:30-1:35pm)+Discussion

Instructor: Huizenga | Teaching Assistant(s):

Required Text(s)

Reader

Philosophy 4 | Introduction to Ethics | GIRV 2128 (MTWR 11:00am-12:05pm)+Discussion

Instructor: Blair | Teaching Assistant(s):

Isn't ethics just whatever you believe? Can morality be objective? What makes something right or wrong? Are good intentions enough? Or good character? What is the difference? How should ethics guide my actions? This course will survey some of the best available answers to these questions. We will examine several ethical philosophies, including those of Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, David Hume, Immanuel Kant, and John Stuart Mill. Finally, we will use these theories to analyze situations that confront us daily.

Required Text(s)

Reader

Philosophy 20B | History of Philosophy | TD 2600 (MTWR 9:30-10:35am)+ Discussion

Instructor: Hannen | Teaching Assistant(s)

Required Text(s)

Kolak and Thomson, The Longman Standard History of Medieval Philosophy

We will read selections from the major works of such medieval philosophers as Augustine, Anselm, and Aquinas. The focus will be on such topics as the classic arguments for the existence of God, the problem of universals, and scholastic ideas about knowledge and mind. If time permits we may also read some Thomist moral and political philosophy.

Philosophy 100E | Metaphysics | TD 2600 (TWR 12:30-1:50pm)+Discussion

Instructor: Way | Teaching Assistant(s)

This course is an introduction to contemporary analytic metaphysics. Topics to be considered include: universals and particulars, necessity and possibility, persistence through time, personal identity, free will.

Philosophy 143 | Philosophy of Law | TD 2600 (TWR 2:00-3:25pm)+Discussion

Instructor: Wilkins | Teaching Assistant(s)

This class will examine problems in the theory and practice law.

Required Text(s)

Adams, Philosophical Problems in the Law